

PROCLAMATION NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL EMERGENCY JUNE 25, 2004, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

WHEREAS, a Presidential Disaster Declaration has been issued for Spirit Lake Nation and 16 north central and northeastern North Dakota counties – Benson, Bottineau, Burke, Cavalier, Grand Forks, Griggs, Mountrail, Nelson, Pembina, Ramsey, Renville, Steele, Towner, Traill, Walsh and Ward – in response to spring flooding caused by excessive precipitation and severe weather, which have devastatingly impacted agricultural practices; and

WHEREAS, on the basis of assessment reports from state, tribal and local emergency management, as well as information from appointed and elected officials and data from the national drought monitoring organization regarding extreme drought conditions that have and continue to occur, in southwest North Dakota and the adverse impact of those conditions on livestock feed supplies, emergence and production of grains, agribusiness, and stream flows; and

WHEREAS, the State Farm Service Agency (FSA) Board requested nine counties, Adams, Billings, Bowman, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Sioux, Slope and Stark, for a Secretarial Designation to open Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land for haying and grazing based on a 40 percent departure from normal precipitation for the last four months; and

WHEREAS, the losses have and will continue to pose direct economic hardships to both livestock and crop producers in the areas directly affected by the drought, flooding caused by excessive precipitation and severe weather, as listed above; and

WHEREAS, the impact of these conditions adversely impact the agri-services providers statewide, constituting a severe economic hardship to suppliers, other businesses and individuals; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby proclaim an "agricultural emergency" within the State of North Dakota. Pursuant to the provisions of the North Dakota Disaster Act of 1985, as amended (Chapter 37.17.1, North Dakota Century Code), which includes procedures for implementation of mitigation measures as contained in the State Emergency Operations

Plan, this proclamation, and the executive orders or regulations that may be issued to implement this proclamation to mitigate losses resulting from the continuation of this agricultural emergency, shall have the force and effect of law.

/s/ John Hoeven, Governor

Attest:

/s/ Secretary of State